

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

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TIME FOR FILING REQUIRED LICENSE APPLICATION

Many canners have been unable to file their applications for licenses under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act prior to December 10, the date on which the penalty provisions of the Act became effective. This was due chiefly to the fact that the interpretation of the Act to include most canners was not announced until comparatively late.

In response to inquiries received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as to the date when the licenses must be secured, the Bureau is advising canners that if they are not now buying fresh fruits and/or fresh vegetables but are merely selling the processed article, they will not need a license until such time as they resume buying these commodities in interstate or intrastate commerce, if the processed article is sold in interstate commerce.

BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION OF SUGAR

The National Canners Association laboratory is frequently asked whether, from the standpoint of bacterial contamination, beet sugar or cane sugar has any advantage over the other for canning vegetables that are susceptible to thermophilic spoilage. In answering such inquiries, the laboratory has invariably stated that the two kinds of sugar are regarded as being on the same basis, as is evidenced by a recent published statement (The Canning Trade, March 17; The Canner, March 15, 1930), a paragraph from which reads as follows:

"As a general statement, it may be said that the flat sour bacteria were found in refined cane sugar to a greater extent than in the white beet sugar, but the white beet sugar at times was undesirably contaminated with spores of thermophilic anaerobes. There appeared to be no consistent advantage in either the refined cane or the white beet sugar. In both classes samples of low contamination and also of undesirably high contamination were found."

In the summary of this same paper, the following statement appears:

"From a bacteriological viewpoint, there appears to be no preference between white beet sugar and refined cane sugar. Desirable and undesirable samples have been found in both."

The position of the laboratory has not altered since the publication of the statement referred to.

BIDS ASKED ON CANNED PRUNES

The Navy Department is asking for bids on 614,000 pounds of canned prunes, for delivering in various quantities at Boston, Brooklyn, N. Y., Philadelphia, Hampton Roads, Va., Mare Island, Calif., and Bremerton Wash. The bids will be opened at 10 A. M., January 6, 1931. Copies of Schedule 4733 on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

SURVEY OF SHIPPING CASES UNDER WAY

A survey among the paper board box manufacturers, can manufacturers and canners to ascertain the variety in sizes and dimensions of the corrugated and fibre boxes now being used in the shipment of canned foods has been undertaken by the Division of Simplified Practice of the U. S. Bureau of Standards at the request of the Paper Board Industries Association. The box manufacturers suggested this survey in anticipation of the adoption of a simplified list of cans by the canning industry. It will be recalled that at the last annual convention a program of simplification was presented which contemplated the adoption of 27 sizes and types of cans.

The questionnaire that has been sent to the manufacturer of shipping cases is intended to develop information as to the sizes of cases they recommend for the various sizes of fruit and vegetable cans proposed in the simplification program presented to the National Canners Association, and as to the sizes of cases now being furnished to the canning industry.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN NOVEMBER

Department store sales increased from October to November by 2 per cent, when allowance is made for the number of trading days, according to preliminary figures reported to the Federal Reserve Board. This increase is somewhat less than the estimated seasonal increase for that period, and the Board's index of department store sales, which is adjusted for the number of trading days and for seasonal variation, declined by 3 per cent during the month. As compared with last year, the aggregate value of sales in November was 12 per cent smaller, and when

allowance is made for the fact that there was one less trading day this year than last, the decrease from last year is about 8 per cent. For the first eleven months of the year department store sales were 7 per cent smaller this year than last year.

TARIFF COMMISSION DISCONTINUES SEVERAL INVESTIGATIONS

The U. S. Tariff Commission has announced that in accordance with provisions of Senate Resolution No. 348, adopted December 3, 1930, the investigations, under the provisions of Section 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930, with respect to matches and refined sugar have been discontinued and dismissed without prejudice. These investigations were instituted on July 22, 1930, upon request contained in Senate Resolution No. 325 of July 21, 1930.

The Senate on December 8 adopted a resolution (S. Res. 357) rescinding an earlier resolution directing the Commission to investigate the cost of production of shoe lacing.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS

TOMATOES.—The production forecast as of December 1 for Florida and Texas is 481,000 bushels, or about 82 per cent greater than last fall's crop. Although the forecast for Texas has been reduced to about 85 per cent of the November 1 forecast, good growing conditions in Florida have increased the prospects for that crop about 13 per cent, and the combined forecasts for the two states indicate a crop only 5 per cent smaller than was expected on November 1.

Commercial acreage of tomatoes for export from Cuba during the fall and winter of the 1930-31 season is estimated to be about one-fourth larger than last season. The total plantings of the commercial crop will amount to at least 6,000 acres. As the situation now appears, even with the increase in acreage in Cuba, shipments are not likely to exceed those of last season. Shipments to the United States during the 1929-30 season amounted to approximately 500,000 six-basket crates.

CABBAGE.—Revised estimates of acreage and forecast of production for South Carolina and Virginia indicate a crop of 14,000 tons, or 22 per cent larger than the production in 1929-30. Lower yields are reported for both states, but due to the increase in the South Carolina acreage the average indicated yield for the group is slightly above last fall's yield.

SNAP BEANS.—The December 1 forecast of production for Florida and Texas is 1,063,000 bushels, 26 per cent below the forecast of November 1. Frost and freeze damage in Florida and rain damage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas have

reduced the crops in both states. The production is now expected to be about 30 per cent larger than in the fall of 1929-30 and 130 per cent larger than the average production, 462,000 bushels, for the five-year period, 1925-1929.

HEAVY TRUCK CROP MOVEMENT

Looking toward the Christmas holiday period, carlot movement of several important products increased greatly during the week ended December 6, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Celery shipments increased to almost 1,000 cars, with oranges nearly up to 3,000 and grapefruit to 920 cars. Tangerines from Florida required 240 cars, compared with 65 during the same period last winter.

Apple shipments held about steady at 2,415 cars. This was about 40 per cent more than moved during the same week last season, because of much heavier movement from the West. Washington increased to 1,155 cars last week, but New York dropped to 385 and the Virginias to 215 cars. Idaho originated 215 carloads.

With cauliflower shipments from California increased to 325 cars and Oregon down to 35, the week's total was 365 cars, or about 40 per cent more than last year.

New-crop carrot movement in California increased to nearly 300 cars and the season opened in southern Texas. Old-crop carrot forwardings from New York State totaled about 70 cars.

Imperial Valley green pea shipments held about steady at 115 cars. Only one car each came from Florida and Mexico. Florida originated 65 cars of peppers, but movement of beans from that State decreased to 135 cars. Texas sent 8 cars of beans to market.

Total movement of northern cabbage increased greatly to 820 cars, of which New York supplied 575 and Wisconsin 170. Florida originated 25, South Carolina 40 and Texas 5 cars of this product. Plantings in four early states are now estimated at 41,120 acres, an increase of 27 per cent over last season and slightly above the record of the 1928-29 season. Texas has 25,800 acres, as against 18,000 last winter. Three other states have 4,500 to 5,700 acres each.

Tomato movement from all shipping districts increased to 160 cars, or about twice as many as a year ago. Florida East Coast was up to 85 cars for the week; Texas originated 55 and California a dozen cars. The first arrivals of tomatoes were reported from Mexico; about 50 carloads came from Cuba, and 18 from the Bahamas.

Spinach shipments again increased, the week's total being

380 cars, of which Texas supplied 330 and Virginia 45. Five early states together have 32,820 acres of spinach this season, or 16 per cent more than last winter. The Texas plantings have been increased greatly in recent years and now total 29,600 acres, or nearly twice what they were in 1925.

California orange shipments increased to 1,860 cars last week, and Florida jumped to 1,100 cars. A sharp gain occurred in the movement of Florida grapefruit. About 715 cars came from that State and 175 from Texas. Washington registered an unexpected increase in shipments of pears. Of the week's 150 cars of this fruit, 85 came from Washington and 25 each from Oregon and California. Grape forwardings from California had decreased to 115 cars.

The week's combined movement of 25 leading fruits and vegetables gained sharply and totaled 18,100 cars, compared with 15,290 a year ago. Movement of potatoes alone was 4,020 cars, apples 2,415, and oranges 2,990 cars, with lettuce exceeding a thousand cars.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Nov. 30- Dec. 6, 1930	Nov. 23-29, 1930	Dec. 1-7, 1929	Total this season to Dec. 6	Total last season to Dec. 7	Total last season
Apples, total	2,415	2,515	1,715	75,235	74,345	102,801
Eastern states	779	1,076	656	30,795	39,616	51,480
Western states	1,636	1,439	1,059	44,440	34,729	51,362
Cauliflower	365	303	255	3,604	3,015	9,535
Cabbage:						
1931 season	28	2	13	30	23	31,944
1930 season	818	329	905	31,944	38,538	44,244
Carrots:						
1931 season	297	198	237	1,380	1,277	10,842
1930 season	72	54	103	10,842	10,854	12,149
Green peas:						
Domestic	115	114	71	862	263	6,778
Imports	1	0	7	3	7	2,118
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	560	357	583	29,080	30,851	32,430
Imports	1	2	2	19	16	64
Pears	150	141	96	27,059	19,858	21,147
Peppers:						
1931 season	64	60	13	287	41	2,765
1930 season	2	9	5	2,765	3,281	3,286
Spinach	382	161	333	875	903	9,623
String beans:						
1931 season	135	177	145	1,367	452	9,491
1930 season	8	7	10	9,491	8,626	8,626
Tomatoes:						
1931 season	90	54	4	214	8	33,253
Imports	74	29	69	129	112	7,039
1930 season	70	66	79	33,253	32,152	32,202

FREIGHT RATE DECISIONS

In the case involving the rates on canned grapefruit in carloads, from Frostproof, Fla., to Great Falls and Butte, Mont., Fargo, N. Dak., and Denver, Colo., the Interstate Commerce

Commission has found the rates not unduly prejudicial and not unreasonable in the past, but unreasonable for the future to the extent that they exceed or may exceed 35 per cent of the contemporaneous first-class rates applying from and to the same points. The Commission has accordingly entered an order requiring the establishment of rates within the limits thus set.

In a case involving the rates on canned evaporated milk from Greensboro, Md., to various interstate destinations, the Interstate Commerce Commission has issued an order requiring the carriers to establish rates that do not exceed those contemporaneously applicable to canned foods in carloads from Greensboro to the various destinations.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

General business witnessed an upward trend for the week ended December 6, 1930, the volume of check payments for the five days of the latest week increasing by 8.1 per cent over the preceding full week.

The downward trend of the past ten weeks in wholesale prices appears to have been halted, the index of 120 commodities increasing slightly from the week previous. Prices of agricultural products were lower, but non-agricultural products were slightly above the week previous.

Bank loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks declined very slightly during the week and were also lower than a year ago. Interest rates on call money was the same as the previous week, but time money rates increased for the first time in several weeks. Interest rates on both call and time money were considerably under last year.

The number of business failures reported for the week ending December 6 exceeded those of the previous week even after adjustment is made for the previous holiday week.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise	
			L. C. L.	Other
Week ended November 20	702,085	255,951	104,952	251,182
Preceding week	779,757	292,201	229,537	257,929
Corresponding week, 1929	836,310	305,441	220,000	310,869
Corresponding week, 1928	900,556	336,210	226,169	338,177

CORN PACK STATED IN CASES OF NO. 2'S

In the reference to the statistics on the corn pack appearing in last week's Information Letter it was stated that the pack was reported in cases of 24 No. 2½ cans. This should have read, No. 2 cans, as was stated in the leaflet sent to all members giving the pack from 1908 to 1930 inclusive.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES FISH IMPORTS

Imports of canned sardines and salmon into the Netherlands East Indies during the first half of 1930 were smaller than in the first half of the preceding year. Comparison of the trade in these two periods is furnished in statistics received by the Department of Commerce from the American trade commissioner at Batavia. The following tables summarize the figures, showing the imports into Java and Madura and Outer Possessions of the Netherlands East Indies separately:

Sardines	January-June, 1929		January-June, 1930	
	Pound	Value	Pounds	Value
Java and Madura:				
From United States.....	6,518,956	\$401,089	5,061,199	\$275,064
From other countries.....	591,476	49,715	364,562	56,825
Outer Possessions:				
From United States.....	5,191,075	311,789	4,941,123	271,976
From other countries.....	2,392,438	165,337	1,412,147	97,288
Salmon				
Java and Madura:				
From United States.....	143,440	13,189	50,080	5,551
From other countries.....	193,963	24,201	110,620	23,671
Outer Possessions:				
From United States.....	164,242	13,301	72,187	5,704
From other countries.....	310,715	25,079	251,642	22,358

SOUTH AFRICAN APRICOT CROP BELOW NORMAL

Although it is impossible to obtain a definite and reliable forecast of this season's apricot crop, it is reported from a number of growing centers that only fair crops are expected, according to the American commercial attache at Johannesburg. One prominent grower has issued a statement that the present crop was 60 percent under normal, and a percentage of the fruit is diseased, but this estimate is regarded as too severe by others.

PROPOSED NEW CHINESE IMPORT TARIFF SCHEDULE

According to a cable from the American commercial attache at Shanghai, forwarded to the Department of Commerce, unofficial reports indicate that the new Chinese import tariff will become effective January 1, 1931, and will probably provide for import duty of or equivalent to 12½ to 30 per cent ad valorem on various food products.

MALAYAN PINEAPPLE CANNERS EXPLOITING BRITISH MARKET

The Federated Malay States are endeavoring to further their sales of canned pineapple in the United Kingdom by consistent advertising, and are building up an increasing demand for this product, according to information received in the Department of Commerce from the American trade commissioner at London. Until recently the pineapple had been regarded as an ingredient of a fruit salad, but it is now becoming a valuable adjunct in

almost every household in the British Isles. Advertising pamphlets have been issued showing no fewer than 1,008 ways of using pineapple, from various ways of serving the fruit itself to its use as an improver of flavor and increasing the caloric and vitamin values of other foods.

Considerable advertising of Malayan pineapple is being done through the efforts of the Empire Marketing Board, and at the recent Lord Mayor of London Procession a large tableau featuring pineapples was shown.

During 1929 Great Britain imported 45,480 short tons of canned pineapple from the Federated Malay States, valued at approximately \$3,111,887. It is expected that this will show an increase for the present year. Approximately 70 per cent of the total exports of canned pineapple from the Malay States is accounted for by Great Britain.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CANNERS

A revised edition of Farmers' Bulletin 1233 entitled "Tomatoes for Canning and Manufacturing" has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The bulletin deals with such subjects as the distribution of the tomato canning industry, soils, the growing of tomatoes, fertilizers, diseases, harvesting, etc. The bulletin is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 5 cents per copy.

A 42-page pamphlet on currants and gooseberries, dealing with their culture and their relation to white-pine blister rust, has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1398, superseding an earlier bulletin issued in 1924. The bulletin deals with cultural directions, injuries, insects, diseases, spraying schedules, varieties, ways of using the fruit, and information concerning Federal quarantine regulations. Copies of the bulletin are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 10 cents each.

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